SAS/aw/16Mar64

MAR 17 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE ALLEN W. DULLES

FROM: J. Lee Rankin

As you know, there have been recurrent rumors in the press and elsewhere that Lee Harvey Oswald was a paid informant of the FBI, the CIA, or another federal agency.

The Commission has raised this matter formally only with the FBI. The FBI has categorically denied any such relationship, by affidavit of Director Hoover, supporting affidavits of FBI agents, and several supplemental letters from Mr. Hoover.

We raised this matter informally with Mr. Richard Helms of the CIA in the course of a meeting on March 12. We discussed three possible methods of demonstrating for the record that CIA had no such relationship with Oswald. First, Mr. McCone could give an affidavit similar to that furnished by Mr. Hoover, with whatever supporting affidavits of CIA personnel seemed appropriate. Second, Mr. McCone could appear before the Commission and give testimony. Third, the CIA could make available to you access to whatever files and records you regard as necessary to examine, to determine whether Oswald had any such status with the CIA.

Mr. Helms said that the CIA would be happy to take any of these approaches or any combination which the Commission desired. I would greatly appreciate your advice as to whether we should proceed by requesting affidavits, along the lines of those furnished voluntarily by the FBI, or whether we should pursue any of the alternatives mentioned above.

cc: Mr. Rankin
Mr. Stern
Files